

Integrity Matters

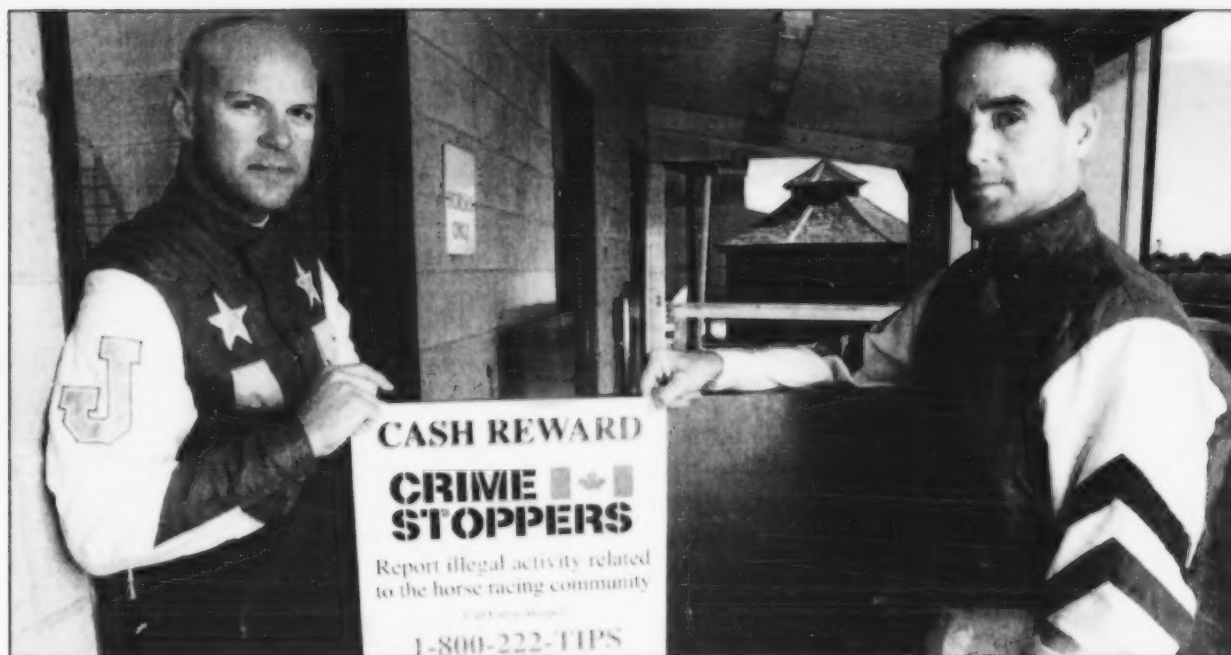


News and information for the horse racing community and the general public

Fall 2007

ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL WAY TO REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

HORSE RACING COMMUNITY PARTNERS WITH CRIME STOPPERS



Standardbred driver Jody Jamieson (L) and thoroughbred jockey Robert Landry are seen with one of the hundreds of posters with the Crime Stoppers phone number, which are being distributed to racetracks, barns and training centres across Ontario.

With the financial support of the industry-funded **ORC Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force**, there is now a program in place to give Ontario's horse racing community an **anonymous, confidential** way to report any illegal activity related to horse racing.

The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) officially signed a partnership agreement with **Crime Stoppers** in September 2007.

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What you should know about Crime Stoppers

In order to maintain the honesty and integrity of horse racing, the ORC officially signed a partnership agreement with Crime Stoppers.

- Callers are never asked to identify themselves
- Crime Stoppers guarantees the **ANONYMITY** of all callers
- Callers are never asked to testify or provide their names
- The call is not traced or recorded
- Crime Stoppers does not use Call Display
- **Cash rewards** up to \$2,000 are offered to people who call the program and their information assists in an investigation
- Crime Stoppers is a not for profit charitable organization funded by private **TAX-EXEMPT** donations and fund raising events



The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) has a clear vision of horse racing in this province. The ORC envisions:

- A strong horse racing industry guided by principles of honesty, integrity and social responsibility; and
- A climate where customers and participants can invest and conduct their horse racing activities with trust and confidence.

I can assure you that the Board of the ORC is doing all it can to safeguard the health and safety of both horses and participants. At its planning meeting earlier this fall, the Board spent considerable time examining ways and means to improve the safety and responsible operation of horse racing in the province, along with improvements in regulations - all leading to raising the integrity quotient within the industry.

As I have said many times, the future of our industry is founded on the premise that all horse racing in Ontario is not only fair, equitable and played by the rules but be perceived to be the case by all the

"Working for integrity - for the horse, the participant and the public"

stakeholders which includes the public. I have also said that we, as a Commission, must operate within the confines of due process and maintain a high standard of integrity as we work towards our common objectives.

How do we accomplish that?

The Board is pleased with the advances and industry support for a sound, vigilant medication control program. The program is just one of the ways we can reinforce the message to all racing fans, as well as the general public, that they can have full and complete confidence in the **integrity of our sport**.

With the signing of the partnership with **Crime Stoppers**, the Commission has provided the industry with a safe, confidential means to anonymously report any illegal activity. I want to publicly thank both Jody Jamieson and Rob Landry for agreeing to help launch this important initiative. It is your industry and - as I urged you in the last issue - you have a duty to yourself and your peers to stand up and speak up. We have now provided you with the means to do so.

In this issue you will read of the new **Alcohol and Drug Policy** for those that work in our industry in Ontario. It takes effect New Year's Day - January 1, 2008. It is all part of our continuing efforts to ensure a safe environment for both horse and participant.

As the policy states, it is based on the premise that substance abuse is unacceptable within the horse racing industry, not to mention society at large. We continue to operate on

the philosophy of help and rehabilitation but it is the responsibility of all of us in the business to detect and deter substance abuse. Please take the time to read and become familiar with the new policy and how it affects you!

Public confidence in the core product of live racing can only be built and maintained on integrity - for the horse, the participant and the public. In order to ensure we collectively strive to make this fact a reality, we need to be diligent, creative and bold in our measures.

We can not allow ourselves to follow in the footsteps of North American automakers. Product does not drive our business - consumers do and we must strive to provide a product that customers are prepared to purchase.

That means they must be convinced we value the safety and health of our horses and participants and provide an exciting and fair game.

CASH REWARD

CRIME STOPPERS

Report the use of illegal
medications in racehorses

Call Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-TIPS

1-800-222-8477

**Remain Anonymous
Earn a Cash Reward**

You will NEVER have to reveal your identity or testify
in any type of hearing or court.

Supported by Ontario Racehorse and horse people associations

NEW ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

GROOMS/HOT WALKERS AMONG POSITIONS TO BE TESTED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008

Are you a 'designated racing official'? Do you work in a 'safety sensitive position' in horse racing? Then you'll want to pay close attention to a new ORC Alcohol and Drug Policy Directive, which will be effective January 1, 2008

UNANNOUNCED TESTING FOR?

Testing (now using a swab of saliva for drugs) will be conducted to determine the presence of:

- Cannabinoids (marijuana)
- Amphetamine/methamphetamine (ICE, Crystal meth)
- Cocaine
- Opiates (heroin)
- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Oxycodone
- Percodan
- Alcohol - note new level -

Blood Alcohol of .02 will result in fine and suspension

The testing program will cover alcohol and the specified drugs only, it will not include testing for other substances except on the advice of medical or substance abuse professionals in a post treatment situation.

The Governing Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) approved the policy at its September 2007 meeting. Work on the policy originated with the work of a committee originally struck by the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association in early 2004. The committee continued with representation from the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Ontario Harness Horse Association, the Racetracks Chaplaincy Program, and the ORC.

Violations of the policy are grounds for penalties and suspension from racing activities. However, the purpose of this policy is to focus on intervention and rehabilitation, rather than purely disciplinary action.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The **Rules of Racing** already list positions subject to testing. Though named, in practice grooms and hot walkers tended not to be tested. This will change with the new policy.

For purposes of this policy **Designated Racing Officials** refers to all employees and other individuals who have responsibility for decision making and the safe operations of all events at ORC licensed facilities.

The newly-designated **Safety-Sensitive Position** is one in which individuals have a key and direct role in the handling of horses. For example, grooms will be included in this list. Positions added for standardbred include: horse identifier, commission and official veterinarian, and blacksmith. For thoroughbred, blacksmiths may be tested. All quarter horse positions will also be subject to testing.

Full details can be found in the full text of the Policy Directive No. 4-2007 (see ORC web site, as noted at right).

WHEN DOES TESTING OCCUR?

Drug testing will take place on an unannounced basis spread throughout the racing season. As well, ORC officials may make a decision to conduct testing based on reasonable cause - including such things as erratic or atypical behaviour.

Testing may be required after a significant accident, incident or near miss that occurs at an ORC licensed

facility. As a condition of return to work, there may be testing after the violation has occurred or after treatment has taken place.

CONSEQUENCES

While prevention and education are key, all licensees are reminded that there are serious consequences for violations to the policy. Based on substance detected and number of offences, this can range from a \$100 fine and suspension for the day, to full suspension of all duties and a referral to the ORC for a hearing. There are also consequences for failure to report directly for a test, refusal to submit to a test, or refusal to agree to the disclosure of a test result.

To read the Policy in detail, including the specific consequences, visit the ORC web site (www.ontarioracing-commission.ca) and follow the links on the October 15, 2007 What's New item - "Notice to the Industry - New Alcohol and Drug Policy Approved"

ARE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AFFECTING YOUR LIFE?

HELP IS AVAILABLE
Call the Drug and Alcohol
Treatment Info line

1-800-565-8603

It's toll-free
It's confidential
It's anonymous
It's open 24 hours

LET US COMMUNICATE!

The ORC is committed to the timely release of information that is clear, concise, and of interest to the Ontario horse racing community.

Have you read these news and information items on the ORC web site? This is just a **partial list** of the various notices and communiqués released by the ORC, since the Summer 2007 newsletter. That brings the number of information items released to nearly 50 for the year.

Not sure? Check out the "What's New-Archives" at www.ontarioracingcommission.ca

Nov 7, 2007

Notice to the Industry - Hearing on Sudbury Race Dates

Oct 18, 2007

Notice to the Industry - ORC Decision on WEG Appeal

Oct 15, 2007

Notice to the Industry - New Alcohol and Drug Policy Approved

Oct 11, 2007

Recommendations for Restructuring HIP released for public consultation

Oct 10, 2007

Notice to the Industry - ORC issues policy on use of purse money for non-betting races

Sep 20, 2007

Notice to Industry - Kawartha Downs Purse Account

Sep 14, 2007

Applications for 2008 race date change circulated

Sep 11, 2007

Industry Notice - Due Process and Appeals

Aug 31, 2007

Restructured Industry Program proposed under HIP Review

Aug 30, 2007

Notice to Industry - Immediate Suspension of B. Robinson

Aug 30, 2007

Deadline for submission of 2008 rule changes is September 15

Aug 15, 2007

Notice to Industry - Trainer Responsibility

Integrity Matters

A publication of the Ontario Racing Commission, the provincial agency which governs, directs and controls horse racing in any or all its forms in the Province of Ontario.

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Horse Racing Community partners with Crime Stoppers

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"By far the majority of people who work in horse racing are honest, dedicated professionals who care about the horse and play by the rules," says John L. Blakney, Executive Director of the ORC. "That community has sent a loud and clear message: the use of non-therapeutic medications or any illegal activity will not be tolerated."

"We are pleased to get the cooperation of the renowned Crime Stoppers organization to support the effort to maintain the honesty and fairness of our sport."

An information campaign has been launched to spread the news to all members of Ontario's horse racing community. Posters with the Crime Stoppers phone number have been distributed to racetracks, barns

and training centres. As well, public service ads featuring the Call Crime Stoppers message are being sent to racetrack program departments to place in racing programs. Other events will be developed to continue to spread the message of community involvement.

Do **you** know of any illegal activity related to horse racing? Speak up for your community!

Call Crime Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS
to anonymously
report information
on any crime.

